

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09271 221142Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 IO-14 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
NEA-11 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01
/184 W

-----076988 221156Z /46

P R 221133Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8726
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BONN 09271

E.O. LL652:GDS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, MOPS, CG, GW
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERVIEW IN
DER SPIEGEL

REF: BONN 9007

1. THE MAY 22 EDITION OF THE GERMAN WEEKLY DER SPIEGEL
CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERVIEW ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. UMBA SAID THE INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE HAD BEEN
PREPARED IN ANGOLA AND LAUNCHED FROM ZAMBIA. HE SAID
THE INVADING TROOPS HAD BEEN TRAINED BY CUBAN INSTRUCTORS
WITH SOVIET FINANCING. UMBA TERMED THE INVASION PART
OF A GLOBAL STRATEGY AGAINST AFRICA AND SAID THE
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CONTINENT WOULD BE ENDANGERED IF ZAIRE WERE TO FALL TO
THE INVADERS. UMBA DENIED THAT DOMESTIC CONDITIONS HAD
BEEN A FACTOR IN THE INVASION, ASSERTING THAT THERE
"ARE NO TENSIONS IN ZAIRE."

3. UMBA SAID ZAIRE HAD WARNED PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN MID-FEBRUARY THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE INVASION WERE TAKING

PLACE ON HIS SOIL. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO INFORMED THE
AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNSC.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF OTRAG, UMBA DESCRIBED
IT AS A "TREATY BETWEEN ZAIRE AND THE FRG" (SIC) DEALING WITH
PEACEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF ROCKET TECHNOLOGY. HE
SAID OPPONENTS OF THE PROJECT -- HE NAMED THE SOVIET
UNION AND ALGERIA -- WERE ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE
ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGY BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
STOESSEL

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